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real excellence in other respects. The book does not purport to contain an exhaustive collection of authorities, but a sufficient number of citations are given to support the development of the work. The New York codifications are added in separate notes, so as to make the treatise of especial value to the New York practitioner. These are not so extensive, however, as to intrude unduly upon the uniformity of the work and are so separated as to justify the hope of the author that the text may be of practical value to those who are not concerned with special New York law. On the whole, the treatise may be considered a contribution of value. Its completion will be awaited with anticipation.

SELECT CASES BEFORE THE KING'S COUNCIL IN THE STAR CHAMBER.

Edited for the Selden Society by I. S. Leadam. Being Vol. 16 of the Publications of the Selden Society for 1902. London. 1903. pp. cliv, 339.

The belated volume of the Selden Society for 1902 has appeared, and is as scholarly, if not as generally interesting or valuable, as its predecessors. It serves to illustrate the fundamental departure which the Society has been making of late years — always excepting Mr. Maitland's admirable Year Books — from its original purpose and plan, which was to publish the early materials for legal history. These Star Chamber papers (it is misleading to call them "cases" as neither opinion nor judgment is given, for the best of reasons) are of no legal interest whatsoever, though they possess considerable interest for the social historian, and throw a little light on the nature of an institution which died and left no sign. The Star Chamber was the vermiform appendix of the King's Council, notable only when inflamed, and excised for the safety of the body politic. Real reports of early cases there decided — and there are many volumes of them in manuscript — would be of legal interest; but a labored study of the institution itself is to the lawyer, at least, mere fruitless antiquarianism. The introductions to the Society's publications were intended to be subordinate to the text. Mr. Leadam's Introduction, fortunately, is the principal feature of the book, and is a masterly essay on the Star Chamber, its history, process and pleadings, composition and jurisdiction; and a comment, historical, social, and genealogical, on the stories told by the papers printed.

To say that this introduction will be warmly welcomed by students of English history in the earlier Tudor times is a moderate statement. It disposes authoritatively of the notion, not lately much urged, that the Court of Star Chamber owed its origin to the Statute of 3 Henry VII. It settles certain other obscure constitutional questions, and it throws valuable light on the social history of the times. But where are the early sources we have been so long promised? The series of ancient rolls would fill a small world; why can we not have printed the rolls of a complete eyre of the fourteenth century, to compare with the Pleas for Gloucester? If not from the unpublished Year Books, then from the rolls let us get an insight into the development of the law in Richard's day. Or if that is asking too much, let us have more Select Civil, Criminal, and Manorial pleas. Can no one but Professor Maitland edit such things?

But it seems ungracious to find fault when such admirable work of its kind is given to us — of a kind, too, which is very probably more generally desired than the strictly legal work. Mr. Leadam's work deserves, and should receive, the warmest commendation.

J. H. B. JR.

ENGLISH AND INDIAN LAW OF TORTS. By Ratanlal Ranchhoddas and Dhirajlal Keshavlal. Second Edition. Bombay: The Bombay Law Reporter Office. 1903. pp. civ, 581. 8vo.

The first edition of this work, which appeared in 1897, has apparently been of great service to the profession in India. Its excellence as a general treatise upon the subject combined with its special treatment of Indian cases and the

peculiarities of the Indian law created a demand for it which soon exceeded the supply and led to the production thus early of a second edition. The authors have adhered rather closely to the plan of the first edition, their aim being to bring the work down to date rather than to remedy any acknowledged defects. They have further increased the serviceability of the work by making the index more exhaustive, and by adding an introduction which consists in a concise summary, covering about fifty pages, of the law discussed in the text.

The general plan of the work is one more frequently followed in text-books on criminal law than in those on torts. The general principles are considered in the preliminary chapters and are applied later in the treatment of the various torts under separate headings. The method of presenting the subject is a common one, the discussion of principles being followed by illustrative cases taken from the reports. A great many Indian cases are given, and peculiarities of the Indian law and conflicts of authority between the various Indian courts are carefully pointed out. The names of leading cases appear in black type. The authors have drawn heavily upon other text-writers for principles, and have made little or no attempt to set forth views of their own. Their work in recording the opinions of others, however, and in stating the law as laid down in the cases shows great care and industry. The work is more comprehensive than many other text-books on the subject. It treats of torts in the master and servant, and principal and agent relations, of infringement of patent and copyright, of liability of carriers and innkeepers, and of several other subjects frequently considered in separate treatises.

The interest of the American reader in the book is of course centred upon the peculiar phases shown by the Indian law of torts. It is rather surprising to find how few of these peculiar phases there are. One of the most noteworthy is the jealousy with which the right to privacy is guarded in most Indian jurisdictions. It is interesting again to note how well old principles apply to the unfamiliar situations which Indian life affords. But on the whole one finds the Indian law of torts little different from that of any other country where the common law is in force.

BRIEF UPON THE PLEADINGS IN CIVIL ACTIONS, AT LAW, IN EQUITY, AND UNDER THE NEW PROCEDURE. By Austin Abbott. Second Edition. In two volumes. Rochester: The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Company. 1904. pp. xxxiii, 1-867; xvii, 869-2120. 8vo.

The authors of this work have aimed to produce a ready-reference manual for the trial lawyer, and they have succeeded. Since the first edition appeared in 1891 it has been recognized as a most serviceable book, perhaps the most serviceable book of its kind in existence. In general scope the present edition follows the lines of the first. One new chapter has been added, dealing with amendments and changes. But most of the increased space in the new edition, which is more than twice the size of the old, is accounted for by the improvements in the citations. These are fuller and more explicit. Not only are many new cases cited, but the old ones are more carefully distinguished and classified. Altogether, the work as it now stands is an adequate treatise on the matter and the manner of pleadings at common law, in equity, and under the codes of the various states.

The main virtues of a good book of this kind are three: it should be well arranged; it should be comprehensive; and it should be reliable. The first of these requirements this work abundantly satisfies. In the text the subjects are arranged and discussed in the order in which questions upon them would naturally arise in the progress of an action. The table of contents is well provided with headings and sub-headings. In the volume on issues of fact, as well as the one on demurrer, these are treated alphabetically. In the index the rules in reference to any one subject, without regard to the stage of proceeding at which they prevail, are collected under that subject.

As regards comprehensiveness and reliability, it is obvious that only one who